

## CLAIMS

1. A method for disconnecting a CPE (customer premise equipment) from a communication network, the method comprising:

5        detecting that the CPE has been left in an off-hook state; and

              automatically disconnecting the CPE from the communication network.

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2. A method for disconnecting a CPE from a communication network in accordance with claim 1, the method further comprising the step of providing an alert on the CPE that the CPE has been disconnected from the communication

15        network.

3. A method for disconnecting a CPE from a communication network in accordance with claim 2, wherein the step of providing an alert on the CPE comprises flashing a light on the CPE.

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4. A method for disconnecting a CPE from a communication network in accordance with claim 2, wherein the step of providing an alert on the CPE comprises generating a tone at the CPE.

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5. A method for disconnecting a CPE from a communication network in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of detecting that the CPE has been left in an off-hook state is done at the CPE.

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6. A method for disconnecting a CPE from a communication network in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of detecting that the CPE has been left in an off-hook state is done in a receiver off-hook detection unit.

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7. A method for disconnecting a CPE from a communication network in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of detecting that the CPE has been left in an off-hook state comprises detecting a receiver off-hook (ROH) tone.

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8. A method for disconnecting a CPE from a communication network in accordance with claim 1, the method further comprising the step of detecting that the CPE has gone on-hook.

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9. A method for disconnecting a CPE from a communication network in accordance with claim 8, the method further comprising the step of reconnecting the CPE to the communication network.

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10. A method for disconnecting a CPE from a communication network in accordance with claim 8, the method further comprising the step of stopping alerting when the CPE has gone on-hook.

11. A receiver off-hook detection apparatus comprising:  
an input port for receiving a plurality of tones  
from a communication network; and  
a processor for determining if any of the plurality  
5 of tones received from the communication network is a  
receiver off-hook (ROH) tone.
12. A receiver off-hook detection apparatus in  
10 accordance with claim 11 further comprising means for  
determining which of a plurality of CPEs connected to the  
receiver off-hook detection apparatus is off-hook.
13. A receiver off-hook detection apparatus in  
15 accordance with claim 12 further comprising:  
means for disconnecting the off-hook CPE from the  
communication network; and  
wherein the processor further provides an alert to  
the CPE that the CPE has been disconnected from the  
20 communication network.

14. A CPE (customer premises equipment) comprising:  
an input port that connects the CPE with a  
communication network; and  
a processor that disconnects the CPE from the  
5 communication network when the CPE is off-hook.

15. A CPE in accordance with claim 14, wherein the  
processor detects when the CPE returns to an on-hook  
10 state and automatically reconnects the CPE to the  
communication network..

16. A CPE in accordance with claim 14, wherein the  
processor provides an alert on the CPE that the CPE has  
15 been disconnected from the communication network.

17. A CPE in accordance with claim 16, wherein the alert  
on the CPE comprises flashing a light on the CPE.

20 18. A CPE in accordance with claim 16, wherein the alert  
on the CPE comprises generating a tone at the CPE.

19. A CPE in accordance with claim 16, the method  
further comprising the step of stopping alerting when the  
25 CPE has gone on-hook.

20. A CPE in accordance with claim 14, wherein the  
processor detects that the CPE is off-hook by detecting a  
receiver off-hook (ROH) tone.